

COUNTRY Eastern Germany REPORT

TOPIC Air Activity over the Rathenow-Brandenburg Area

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 25

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- At 4 p.m. on 16 September 1952, 26 aircraft flying in two formations of 9 planes and one formation of 8 planes flew over Coerne at an altitude of about 6,000 meters, approaching from the southwest and heading toward Friesack. The weather was clear, and the sky was slightly hazy. The formation turned over Friesack to the southeast and headed toward Berlin. From the two vapor trails definitely observed aft of each plane, [redacted] the planes were jet bombers. One plane with one vapor trail only, possibly an escorting MiG-15, circled around the entire formation flying considerably faster than the jet bombers. Because of a change in the altitude, no vapor trailers were observed over Friesack for about 2 minutes. There, the MiG-15 came down to an altitude of about 1,000 meters in a gliding flight and disappeared toward Brandenburg. 50X1-HUM
- At 7:30 a.m. on 18 September, three or four waves of 3 or 4 MiG-15s each were observed approaching over Rathenow at an altitude of 3,000 meters. There was clear weather with slight cloudiness. The planes circled several times over the Rathenow-Semlin area, apparently searching for a definite target. Then, the planes formed one row and glided toward the ground between Rathenow and Semlin. Heavy detonations, similar to those caused by the dropping of bombs or heavy AA gun firing, definitely not the firing of aircraft weapons, were heard while the waves approached. [redacted] the MiG-15s had fighter-bomber missions. After the low level attack, the aircraft climbed, circled and departed. The individual waves attacked at intervals of about 15 minutes. Subsequently, three formations of 24 to 30 IL-10s approached the Rathenow-Semlin area coming from the east. The planes flew at an altitude of 300 meters. They circled over the area and then took course to the southwest flying at the same altitude. Some of the leading aircraft rocked considerably with their wings while flying over the area. Ten planes flew at an altitude of 800 meter. They circled over the area and then took course to the southwest flying at the same altitude. Ten or 15 single-engine planes with radial engines were also observed approaching from the east at an altitude of about 300 meters. These planes circled over the Rathenow-Semlin area several times and, subsequently, headed southwest. A U-2 biplane circled over the training area for one hour. *
- After 9:30 a.m. on 25 September, there was intensive air activity. The weather was clear and the cloud base high. At 9:30 a.m., 2 MiG-15s and 4 IL-10s circled over Rathenow at an altitude of about 400 meters. At 9:35 a.m., four MiG-15s flying in wedge formation to the right circled over Rathenow. They either made

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reconnaissance flights or protected army operations which were performed simultaneously. At 9:40 a.m., ten IL-10s approached at an altitude of 400 meters and circled over Rathenow several times. No bombing or firing at ground targets was observed. This air activity continued until 2 p.m. At 2 p.m., 4 MiG-15s and 4 IL-10s circled over the area south of Rathenow.

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4. At 8:30 a.m. on 26 September, [redacted] 2 MiG-15s and 4 IL-10s circling widely over the Rathenow area. From the noise of engines heard more planes were in the air. Flying continued until 2:30 p.m. All the MiG-15s observed on 25 and 26 September had auxiliary fuel tanks. **

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5. On 25 September between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., practice flights were made by up to nine jet fighters over Hellbergen near Zichtau, northwest of Gardelegen. On 27 September, a formation of bombers was observed flying toward Magdeburg coming from the direction of Salzwedel. The formation consisted of several groups each of about 25 planes with fighter escort. ***

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* [redacted] Comment. Between 15 and 21 September 1952, Soviet Army units practiced crossing the Havel River near Albertsheim 5 km north of Rathenow.

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[redacted] units of the fighter divisions in Puetnitz and Laerz and units of the ground attack division in Doeberitz were involved in these exercises. The jet bomber observed probably belonged to the bomber division in Verneuchen. It has not been determined whether the MiG-15 units are equipped with bombs. The mission of the single-engine planes, probably Yak-11s, has not been determined. It is possible that the planes were reconnaissance planes of the headquarters involved in the exercises.

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** [redacted] Comment. Exercises held in the Rathenow-Nennhausen-Vieritz area after 23 September involved units of the Fourth Gds Necz Army.

[redacted] units of the ground attack division in Doeberitz and of the fighter division in Finow also participated in these exercises.

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*** [redacted] Comment. At the same time, Soviet Army units performed maneuvers in the Letzlinger Heath south of Gardelegen.

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[redacted] the ground attack regiment in Stendal was also involved in the exercises. The bomber planes observed possibly were IL-10s.

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